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ABSTRACT

This report provides practitioners in the field of child and family services with important guidelines on early childhood education and family support programs including program design, community collaboration, funding, and staff management. The book presents the five main components of establishing an early childhood education and family support program by drawing on case studies of three exemplary programs: Early Education Services of Brattleboro, Vermont; The Center of Leadville, Colorado; and Family Services Center of Gainesville, Florida. Chapter 1 is an introduction to structure of the report. Chapter 2 explores the different paths taken to provide comprehensive family support. Chapter 3 covers the programs' different service strategies for young children and their families. Chapter 4 illustrates the range of education, health, and social services for young children. Chapter 5 deals with services for their parents. Chapter 6 describes how to staff programs with caring and creative people. Chapter 7 analyzes several innovative funding strategies and their implications. Chapter 8 concludes the report with recommendations for policy makers, including examples of ways in which states can support local efforts at comprehensive services for children and families, and remove barriers to their more efficient implementation. Contains 38 references. Appendices I, II, and III contain detailed information about each of the three programs in a format that highlights milestones in program development and key operations. Appendix IV documents the field methods and data analysis procedures. (AP)

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